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PETITION OF

MCI WORLDCOM COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

CASE NO. PUC000327

and

**MCI WORLDCOM COMMUNICATIONS
OF VIRGINIA, INC.**

**For Commission Order against
Verizon Virginia Inc. for
Inadequate and Discriminatory
Intrastate Access Services
Provisioning**

HEARING EXAMINER'S RULING

February 28, 2001

On December 8, 2000, MCI WORLDCOM Communications, Inc., and MCI WORLDCOM Communications of Virginia, Inc. (collectively, "WorldCom") filed a Petition seeking an order by the Commission against Verizon Virginia Inc. ("Verizon Virginia") for inadequate and discriminatory intrastate access services provisioning. Pursuant to a Commission order dated December 19, 2000, Verizon Virginia filed its Answer and Motion to Dismiss on January 17, 2001. On January 29, 2001, WorldCom filed its Reply. In its February 16, 2001, order, the Commission denied Verizon Virginia's Motion to Dismiss and appointed a Hearing Examiner to conduct further proceedings in this matter.

By motion filed February 26, 2001, WorldCom requests that the Commission enter a Protective Order in this proceeding. In support of the motion, WorldCom states that Verizon Virginia objects to Interrogatories Nos. 28-31, 41, and 43-45 on the grounds that the questions "seek information that is proprietary to Verizon and/or its end-user customers." (Motion at 1).

I find that Verizon Virginia should be allowed to respond to the Motion for Protective Order, and WorldCom should be afforded an opportunity to reply. Those pleadings should also address the need, if any, for provisions for more limited access to "Competitively Sensitive" information than is generally provided for "Confidential" information. Accordingly,

IT IS DIRECTED:

(1) That, on or before March 7, 2001, Verizon Virginia should file its response to the Motion for Protective Order filed by WorldCom; and

(2) That WorldCom should file its reply on or before 12:00 noon Eastern Standard Time on March 9, 2001.

Howard P. Anderson, Jr.
Hearing Examiner